Mr. M. S. Doraswami Aiyangar: Sir, we had to observe the action due to floods. The question was whether the waterway was sufficient for the flow of the water. We had to observe it for subsequent years and it took naturally some time.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: (*Karunagapalli, Kartikapalli, and Ambalapuzha* cum *Shertalla*): Sir, may I know whether the department is waiting for the arrival of some iron materials for these two bridges?

Mr. M. S. Doraswami Aiyangar: Yes.

Poramboke cases in Muvattupuzha, Kunnatnad, Devicolam and Parur.

56. ***Mr. E. K. Kuripe** (*Parur, Kunnatnad and Muvattupuzha* cum *Devicolam*): Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of Poramboke cases taken up in 1113 and 1114 in each of the taluks of Muvattupuzha, Kunnatnad, Devicolam and Parur, the number of cases in which punishments were inflicted and the amounts realised in each taluk by way of fine?

Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): *A statement furnishing the required information is laid on the table.

Silts in the Periyar river.

57. ***Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar** (*Parur, Kunntanad and Muvattupuzha* cum *Devicolam*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the Periyar river is being silted up year after year;

(*b*) if the answer to part (*a*) is in the affirmative, whether the Government will be pleased to state the reasons for the same and what action was taken by the Government to prevent the silting up and when;

(*c*) how long is it since the silting up is going on in the Periyar river;

(*d*) has any part of the river become unfit for navigation even for ordinary valloms during the summer season; if so, what is the period during which such navigation is not possible;

(*e*) what is the distance of that portion of the river which is not fit for navigation during the summer season; and

(*f*) the average number of valloms that daily pass and repass through that river between Alwaye and Perumbavur?

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Mr. M. S. Doraswami Aiyangar: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Natural causes such as rains falling on the catchment area account for the silting up of the river. In order to prevent this silting up, Government have made it a policy to register the wooded areas in the High Range in Peermade for cardamom cultivation only so that the forest trees are not cut down and that there may be undergrowth of cardamom which will prevent silt being brought down. It is also expected that the construction of dams across streams undertaken for purposes of irrigation and other schemes may prevent the silting up of the river bed to some extent.

(*c*) From time immemorial.

(*d*) Yes. Above Mudikkal from beginning of February to beginning of June.

(*e*) Between Mudikkal and Malayattur, six miles.

(*f*) No statistics have been collected.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: Sir, with reference to part (*e*) of the answer, may I know whether there are any floods in the river, year after year?

Mr. M. S. Doraswami Aiyangar: Yes. there are.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: May I know whether the policy of disafforestation is not the sole cause of the floods obtaining here?

Mr. M. S. Doraswami Aiyangar: It is one of the chief causes.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: In view of that fact, may I know whether the Government have in contemplation any idea to stop disafforestation?

Mr. M. S. Doraswami Aiyangar: It is already under contemplation and therefore it has been stated in the reply that it is the definite policy of Government that lands are to be given only for cultivation of cardamom and that disafforestation should not be allowed.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: As regards answer to part (*e*) may I know whether the public are not being put to too much trouble on account of this part of the Periyar river being unfit for navigation for more than six months?

Mr. M. S. Doraswami Aiyangar: There are some difficulties, no doubt.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: May I know whether Government cannot take up the question of deepening this part of the river?

Mr. M. S. Doraswami Aiyangar: We are deepening portions as difficulties arise now and then, as the deepening get silted up as quickly as we do the deepening.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: What is the width of the river which they are widening year after year for the passage of Valloms?

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Mr. M. S. Doraswami Aiyangar: We are widening a small portion for the passage of valloms but the work is just for the time being. This gets silted up again and is not very effective.

Commutation rate for Kandukrishi rent.

58. ***Mr. K. M. Kesavan:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have fixed varying commutation rates with regard to the payment of rent on "Kandukrishi" lands; and

(*b*) if so, will they be pleased to state the principle involved in fixing these various rates?

Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The rates were fixed on the basis of the average *nirak* rates of paddy in the various taluks?

Village Unions.

59. ***Mr. K. M. Kesavan:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the number of village unions and their respective places with reference to taluks;

(*b*) whether a village union has been sanctioned anywhere in the taluk of Karthikapalli; and

(*c*) if not, why not?

Mr. M. K. Nilakanta Aiyar (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) There are twenty-six village unions in the State.

They are the following:—

	Place of union.	*Taluk.*
1	Thazhakudi	Thovala
2	Suchindram	Agastiswaram
3	Eraniel	Kalkulam
4	Arumana	Vilavankod
5	Balaramapuram	Neyyattinkara
6	Kazhakuttam	Trivandrum
7	Vamanapuram	Nedumangad
8	Warkala	Chirayinkil
9	Pulinkunnu	Ambalapuzha
10	Thrikovilvattom	Quilon
11	Punalur	Pathanapuram
12	Aroor	Shertallai
13	Adoor	Kunnathur
14	Erezha	Mavelikara
15	Oachira	Karunagapalli
16	Mannar	Thiruvella
17	Elanthoor	Pathanamthitta
18	Achanputhoor	Shencotta

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